

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
July 22, 2014

Roll Call - The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. Present were Commissioners Scott Kuhn, Kay Findley, Nancy Wilms, Al Benzoni, John Silverthorn, Noah Puni and Chair Kim Hughes. The Student Commissioner position is presently vacant. Council Liaison Richard D. Schneider, M.D. was present. Staff Liaison Debby Figoni was present.

Minutes - Minutes from the June 24, 2014 were tabled and will be brought to the August meeting for approval.

Public Comments and Suggestions - Resident Leslie Crumley of 1821 Hanscom Drive wanted to encourage the City to install an electric vehicle charging station in the City (update on this issue below).

1. **City's Urban Forest Update** - Oak season is here and residents are pulling about 10 permits per week. West Coast Arborists (WCA) trimmed Oak trees on Ramona between Roland and Huntington, on Fair Oaks between Columbia and Huntington and trimmed Silk oaks (Grevileas) on Diamond. WCA did an inventory of new trees and will be replacing dead trees. WCA has started their new water truck with a dedicated driver. Due to drought, staff is upgrading some medians from overhead sprinklers to drip. The commissioners wanted more facts on planting a 15 gallon tree versus a 24" box.

2. **West Coast Arborists' Contract** - Gabe Nevarez, Public Works Operations Manager, updated the commission on West Coast Arborists' (WCA) contract. He stated that the contract is up but that the Public Works Director had the authority to extend the contract annually. Due to inadequate contract specifications, NREC requested more details on the contract, and how WCA will be accountable for managing tree health, replacement and watering.

3. **Urban Water Conservation Drought & Drought Actions** - The commission discussed removing turf and installing drought tolerant landscapes in more city medians and parts of city parks, including Arroyo Park, and the golf course without jeopardizing the aesthetics of the golf course. Staff showed photos of a beautiful and expensive remodel at a golf course in Los Angeles. Sprinkler systems at City parks were recently upgraded but staff needs to continue to monitor all irrigation on a regular basis. The commission suggested installing auto flow sinks at City facilities.

4. **Water Conservation Programs Update** - Senior Management Analyst Figoni is promoting the City's turf rebate program and rebates on water efficient devices via flyers, the South Pasadena Review, the website, facebook and workshops. The free showerheads and hose nozzles are still a big hit. More will have to be ordered soon. Figoni is working on workshops and events promoting water conservation (see Events #9 below).

5. **Synthetic Turf** - Per City Council direction, the topic of synthetic turf in the parkways will be discussed at the August meetings of the Design Review Board, and the Natural Resources and Environmental, Cultural Heritage, Public Works and Planning Commissions. Figoni will present and Commissioners Benzoni and Findley will attend to provide feedback the meetings.

6. **Styrofoam Ban** - No update, table this item.

7. **Charging Stations** - Figoni stated that the City was approved for matching grant funds from the Air Quality Management District. Benzoni talked to the Bristol Farms shopping center property management company and they would be interested in installing a charger if the Adopt-a-Charger funds were still available. Unfortunately, that funding is no longer available.

8. **Ordinances Update** - Figoni updated the commission new rebate amounts for water conservation devices amounts approved by City Council at the July 2, 2014 meeting. The Parkway Ordinance is going for the final reading at the August 20th meeting. The Commissioners stated that outreach should be done city wide. A motioned was made by Commissioners Kuhn and Wilms to request City Council adopt the City's Stage 1 – Moderate Water Supply Shortage; with all in favor, 7-0.

9. **Upcoming Events** - The July 20th Living Green Expo and Concert was a success. Both of Figoni's mini-workshops were well attended. More Water Wise Workshops are scheduled for August. The Household Hazardous Waste event will be in South Pasadena on August 31st, the annual Dumpster and Donation Day is October 11th, and the Nature Park 10th Anniversary event is October 18th.

10. **Plastic Bag Ban Education Outreach** - Chair Hughes and Figoni to work on sponsors for a reusable bag and outreach for the October 6, 2014 start date.

11. **Renewable Energy Committee** - The commission would like not only city staff, but also experts from the community involved, similar to what was done for the Water Committee.

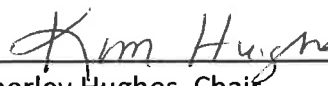
Chair Communications - Chair Hughes informed the Commissioners on Los Angeles Natural History Museums' upcoming water lectures.

Commissioner Communications - Commissioner Kuhn suggested moving the meetings up one week during November and December and to discuss at August Meeting.

Staff Liaison Communications - Thanked the Commissioners for their help and assistance with the Green Living Expo event.

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m. approved by Commissioners Silverthorne and Puni, and all members were in favor, 7-0.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, August 26, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.

 9/23/14
Kimberley Hughes, Chair